

HB 903 -- Marriage Licenses

Sponsor: Mayfield

This bill requires all applicants for a marriage license who are less than 25 years of age to submit a certificate at the time the marriage license application is submitted showing the applicants have completed the following premarital counseling requirements:

(1) At least three hours of premarital counseling. The premarital counseling must be conducted by a clergy member in good standing in Missouri, a licensed psychologist or psychiatrist, a licensed therapist or counselor, a current high school counselor or a married couple who is currently married and has been married at least 25 years. The person conducting the counseling must sign a certificate of compliance verifying that the marriage applicants have obtained the required three hours of premarital counseling.

The bill specifies that a county may impose an additional fee of no more than \$5 under these provisions for the issuance of a marriage license to be paid by the person applying for the license. The fee must be collected by the recorder of deeds at the time the marriage license is issued. A county that imposes the fee is permitted to retain no more than \$2.50 of the fee with the remaining amount forwarded to the Director of the Department of Revenue for deposit into the Children's Trust Fund established under Section 210.173, RSMo.